

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An insulated beverage holder for receiving a beverage container and preventing heating of a beverage within the beverage container, the insulated beverage holder comprising:

5            a tubular body formed of elastomeric material, said tubular body having open upper and lower ends;

an upper enclosure member disposed in said open upper end of said tubular body, extending across and enclosing said upper end of said tubular body;

10            a lower enclosure member disposed in said lower end of said tubular member, extending across said lower end of said tubular member, said lower enclosure member having an aperture extending there through;

an opening extending into said tubular body, said opening defining an upper portion and a lower portion of said tubular body, said lower portion being of tubular shape for receiving the beverage container and said upper portion defining a tubular enclosure for fitting over the upper end of the beverage container and sealing the beverage container;

15            a hinge pivotally connecting said upper portion to said lower portion of said tubular body, such that said upper portion is angularly moveable relative to said lower portion between open and closed positions; and

20            a tab mounted to and extending outward of said upper portion of said tubular body, said tab defining a lever member which is engaged by a user to angularly move said upper portion relative to said lower portion of said tubular body.

2. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 1, wherein said opening in said tubular member is defined by a slit which is formed to extend partially through said tubular member to define said upper and lower portions, and a remaining portion of said tubular body disposed intermediate between said upper and lower portions defines said hinge.

3. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 1, wherein a tab aperture is formed to extend through said hinge, extending through a sidewall of said tubular member, and said tab extends from within said upper portion of said tubular body and through said tab aperture.

4. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 3, wherein said tab has an inward retainer member which extends along said sidewall of said upper portion of said tubular body, and a lever member which extends outward of said retainer member, said lever member having an inward portion which extends transverse to said retainer member.

5. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 4, wherein said lever member of said tab is arcuately shaped, curving upwards toward a terminal end of said lever member to define an outer portion of said lever member which extends parallel to said retainer member and an exterior periphery of said upper portion of said tubular body, with said lever member being spaced apart from said exterior periphery of said tubular body, such that a user's finger may insert between said terminal end of said tab and said exterior periphery of said upper portion of said tubular body.

6. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 5, wherein said tab is formed of a hard plastic material which is adhesively secured to said upper enclosure member.

7. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 1, wherein said elastomeric material from which said tubular body is neoprene.

8. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 7, wherein said upper and lower enclosure members are formed of neoprene.

9. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 7, wherein said tubular body is of cylindrical shape.

10. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 9, wherein said upper and lower enclosure members are circular in shape.

11. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 10, wherein said upper and lower enclosure members have peripheries which fit interiorly within and flush against an interior of said tubular body, to seal said upper and lower ends.

12. An insulated beverage holder for receiving a beverage container and preventing heating of a beverage within the beverage container, the insulated beverage holder comprising:

5            a tubular body formed of elastomeric material, said tubular body having open upper and lower ends;

an upper enclosure member disposed in and extending across said open upper end of said tubular body, sealing said upper end of said tubular body;

10          a lower enclosure member disposed in said lower end of said tubular member, sealing said lower end of said tubular member, said lower enclosure member having an aperture extending there through;

15          a slit formed into said tubular body and defining upper and lower portions, and a flexible, remaining portion of said tubular body, said flexible, remaining portion being disposed adjacent to said slit and defining a hinge, said lower portion being of tubular shape for receiving the beverage container and said upper portion defining a tubular enclosure for fitting over the upper end of the beverage container and sealing against a side of the beverage container;

20          said hinge pivotally connecting said upper portion to said lower portion, such that said upper portion is angularly moveable relative to said lower portion;

25          a tab aperture is formed to extend through said hinge, extending through a sidewall of said tubular member, and said tab extends from within said upper portion of said tubular body and through said tab aperture;

a tab mounted to and extending from within said upper portion of said tubular body, through said tab aperture and outward of said upper portion of said tubular body, said tab defining a lever member which is engaged by a user to angularly move said upper portion relative to said lower portion of said tubular body; and

25          said tab having an inward retainer member which extends along said sidewall of said upper portion of said tubular body, and a lever member which extends outward of said retainer member, said lever member having an inward portion which extends transverse to said lever member.

13. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 12, wherein said lever member of said tab is arcuately shaped, curving upwards toward a terminal end of said lever member to define an outer portion of said lever member which extends parallel to said retainer member and an exterior periphery of said upper portion of said tubular body, with said lever member being spaced apart from said exterior periphery of said tubular body, such that a user's finger may insert between said terminal end of said tab and said exterior periphery of said upper portion of said tubular body.

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14. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 3, wherein said tab is formed of a hard plastic material which is adhesively secured to said upper enclosure member.

15. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 12, wherein said elastomeric material of said tubular body is formed of neoprene, and said upper and lower enclosure members are formed of neoprene.

16. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 12, wherein said tubular body is of cylindrical shape, said upper and lower enclosure members are circular in shape, and have peripheries which fit interiorly within and flush against an interior of said tubular body.

17. An insulated beverage holder for receiving a beverage container and preventing heating of a beverage within the beverage container, the insulated beverage holder comprising:

5           a tubular body of cylindrical shape formed of elastomeric material, said tubular body having open upper and lower ends;

an upper enclosure member having a planar body formed of elastomeric material and having a circular shape, said upper enclosure member disposed in said open upper end of said tubular body and fitting flush against an interior of said tubular body, sealing said upper end of said tubular body;

10           a lower enclosure member having a planar body formed of elastomeric material and having a circular shape, said lower enclosure member disposed in said lower end of said tubular member and fitting flush against an interior of said tubular body, sealing said lower end of said tubular member, said lower enclosure member having an aperture extending there through;

15           a slit formed into said tubular body to define an opening which extends partially into said tubular body, between an upper portion and a lower portion of said tubular body, said lower portion being of tubular shape for receiving the beverage container and said upper portion defining a tubular enclosure for fitting over the upper end of the beverage container and sealing against a side of the beverage container;

20           said slit only partially extending across said tubular body to provide a flexible, remaining portion of said tubular body disposed adjacent to said slit defines a hinge which connects said upper portion to said lower portion of said tubular body, such that said upper portion is angularly moveable relative to said lower portion and over the upper end of the beverage container for sealing against the side of the beverage container;

25           a tab aperture is formed to extend through said flexible hinge; and

              a tab formed of plastic material and mounted to and extending from within said upper portion of said tubular body, through said tab aperture and outward of said upper portion of said tubular body, said tab defining a lever member which is engaged by a user to angularly move said upper portion relative to said lower portion of said tubular body.

18. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 17, wherein said tab has an inward retainer member which extends along said sidewall of said upper portion of said tubular body, and a lever member which extends outward of said retainer member, said lever member having an inward portion which extends transverse to said lever member.

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19. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 18, wherein said lever member of said tab is arcuately shaped, curving upwards toward a terminal end of said lever member to define an outer portion of said lever member which extends parallel to said retainer member and an exterior periphery of said upper portion of said tubular body, with said lever member being spaced apart from said exterior periphery of said tubular body, such that a user's finger may insert between said terminal end of said tab and said exterior periphery of said upper portion of said tubular body.

20. The insulated beverage holder of Claim 19, wherein said elastomeric material from which said tubular body is formed is neoprene, and said upper and lower enclosure members are formed of neoprene.